



# Program Samples

## Teen Game Night Sample Schedule

6:00 - 6:15 Get acquainted

6:15 - 6:35 Send youth on scavenger hunt

6:35 - 6:45 Discuss scavenger hunt answers

6:45 - 7:45 Play table games

7:45 - 8:00 Madlib

8:00 - 8:30 Eat pizza and allow any youth who wants to to read their madlib

8:30 - 8:50 Play table games

8:50 - 9:00 Clean up

**YOUTH GAME NIGHT  
PETUNIA PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 36, 2010**

**If you are 13 to 19 years old and like to play  
games and eat pizza, you are invited to  
come by the library at**

**222 Donald Drive  
or call  
333-333-3333**

**to register for the youth game night**

**DON'T DELAY!  
REGISTRATION IS LIMITED**

- ◆ Bring your favorite board game**
- ◆ Parents – meet your teens at the door at  
9:00 or we will turn them into frogs**

## Cyber Café Ghoulish Recipes

### Finger Sandwiches

Prepare peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on white or wheat bread. Cut the crusts from the sandwiches and slice very thin (about 1 inch). Attach sliced almonds (fingernails) on tips of sandwiches with red or pink gel cake icing. Draw knuckles with the red gel cake icing.

### Blood Punch

Mix cranberry juice and ginger ale for the punch. Fill a rubber glove with water and a few gummy worms. Freeze the glove by hanging it in the freezer. When frozen, peel off the glove and invert the "hand" in the punch so that the fingers stick out of the punch. Serve punch with gummy worms.

### Spiders

Melt chocolate or butterscotch chips. Mix with chopped peanuts and chow mein noodles and form to resemble "spiders." Cool on wax paper.

## Consider These Titles for A Book Discussion Group...

### ***Foster's War***

10-14 (Fiction)

by Caroline Reeder

When his older brother joins the army during World War II in order to escape the rages of an authoritarian father, eleven-year-old Foster fights his battles on the homefront.

### ***Mick Harte Was Here***

10–14 (Fiction)

by Barbara Park

Phoebe's brother Mick was killed in a bike accident. Phoebe struggles through the grief process and finds a way to immortalize Mick.

### ***Nothing But the Truth***

10–14 (Fiction)

by Avi

A 9<sup>th</sup> grader is suspended for humming the National Anthem during homeroom, and the incident becomes a national news story.

### ***The Watsons Go to Birmingham***

10-13 (Fiction)

by Christopher Paul Curtis

The ordinary interactions and everyday routines of the Watsons, an African American family living in Flint, Michigan, are drastically changed after they go to visit Grandma in Alabama in the summer of 1963.

### ***Tangerine***

11-13 (Fiction)

by Edward Bloor

Twelve-year-old Paul, who lives in the shadow of his football hero brother Erik, fights for the right to play soccer despite his near blindness and slowly begins to remember the incident that damaged his eyesight.

### ***The Third Eye***

Ages 11-15 (Fiction)

by Lois Duncan

When the young boy Karen baby-sits for disappears; she has a vision and is able to help the police find him. She accepts the fact that she is psychic but struggles against using her talent.

***The Giver***  
12+ (Fiction)

by Lois Lowry

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. Newbery Award, 1994

***Driver's Ed***  
12-15 (Fiction)

by Caroline Cooney

Students in a drivers education class decide on a class game – stealing traffic signs. Their prank turns into a nightmare when a young mother is killed at an intersection from which they have removed the stop sign.

***The Face on the Milk Carton***  
12–15 (Fiction)

by Caroline Cooney

On a milk carton, 15 year old Janie sees the face of a 3 year-old child who was kidnapped 12 years ago, and realizes it is her.

***The Hobbit***  
12+ (Fiction)

by J.R.R. Tolkein

The adventures of the well-to-do hobbit, Bilbo Baggins, who lived happily in his comfortable home until a wandering wizard granted his wish.

***The Window***  
12-14 (Fiction)

by Jeanette Ingold

Mandy lost her sight in the same accident that killed her mother. She went to live with her great aunt and uncle. In her room, at the window, she is able to “see” and hear things that happened years ago.

***And Then There Were None***  
13-15 (Fiction)

by Agatha Christie

One by one guests are being murdered on a mysterious island while those remaining realize the killer is among them.

***Flight 116 Is Down***  
13-16 (Fiction)

by Caroline Cooney

Teenager Heidi Landseth helps rescue people from a plane crash on her family's property, and the experience changes her life forever.

***Life in the Fat Lane***

by Cherie Bennett

14-16 (Fiction)

Sixteen-year-old Lara, winner of beauty pageants and Homecoming queen, is distressed and bewildered when she starts gaining weight and becomes a fat girl. YALSA Best Books for Young Adults 1999

***Out of the Dust***

by Karen Hesse

14-16 (Fiction)

In a series of free verse poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression. Newbery Award, 1998

***Uncle Vampire***

by Cynthia Grant

14-16 (Fiction)

Sixteen-year-old Caroline and her twin sister, Honey, know for sure that their Uncle Toddy is a vampire who comes at night to drink their blood, but fear of the consequences makes them keep their terrible secret.

***Dinner at the Homesick Restaurant***

by Anne Tyler

16-19 (Fiction)

A bittersweet tale told by the matriarch of a troubled family trying to come to grips with the past.

***Generation X***

by Douglas Coupland

16-19 (Fiction)

A loose collection of stories and reflections of three college friends attending Yale. These tales, both funny and touching, provide insight into the post-baby boom generation.

***Into Thin Air***

by Jon Krakauer

16-19 (Nonfiction)

A personal account of the author's experiences on a disastrous expedition to Mount Everest in May 1996 in which 9 people lost their lives.

***Maus***

by Art Spiegelman

16-19 (Fiction)

Vladex Spiegelman, a Jew in the Holocaust, and his son, Arti, try to capture the past in the only way they can—through drawing. These comics aren't funny; they show Vladex's true experiences and show that his only tool for survival was hope.

***Nathan's Run***

by John Gilstrap

16-19 (Fiction)

Nathan Bailey, an orphan at the mercy of his abusive uncle, is sent to a juvenile detention center where he is raped and almost killed. Because he escapes by killing a guard, Nathan becomes the focus of a talk radio show. Trying to prove his innocence, he begins a dialogue with the star of the show while dodging a hitman who is trying to kill him and the police who are trying to capture him.

***Primal Fear***

by William Diehl

16-19 (Fiction)

Brilliant criminal defense lawyer, Martin Vail, is assigned to defend a seemingly gentle and kind young man who is accused of brutally murdering a popular archbishop.

***The Select***

by F. Paul Wilson

16-19 (Fiction)

Two medical students at the Ingraham College of Medicine discover the true purpose of the college and the techniques with which students are being brainwashed in order to fulfill their sinister role.

***Sleeper***

by Lorenzo Carcaterra

16-19 (Fiction)

The author shares his experiences as one of four boys who are sexually brutalized by sadistic guards in a detention center during the summer of 1967. Years later, two of them murder their chief tormentor and the district attorney, who is assigned to prosecute them, is a friend and former victim of the same guard.



## Summer Scavenger Hunt

1. What is the definition of summer? Your source?
2. What are five words that begin with "summer?"
3. In the summer many people travel. If you wanted to travel to Spain this summer and wanted current information about the country, what Dewey decimal number would you use to locate a book?
4. What anniversary are we celebrating when we celebrate Independence Day?
5. What song was sung publicly for the first time on July 4, 1832?
6. Who originally sang the song, "Lazy Hazy Crazy Days of Summer?" Use the Internet to find your answer.

## Summer Scavenger Hunt Answers

1. The warmest season of the year occurring between spring and autumn  
*American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*
2. cypress, house, sault, savory, school, set, solstice, squash, time, wood, summery  
*American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*
3. 914.6 (as opposed to 946 which would be history)
4. The 1776 adoption of the Declaration of Independence
5. America  
*Famous First Facts*
6. Nat King Cole

## Scavenger Hunt Variations

### Variation #1

This type of scavenger hunt is much like the one included in this manual. Instead of locating materials and finding answers to questions, this method requires material location only and is more like a game.

#### Instructions

1. Prepare for each group as many colored paper eggs (or any object) as there are questions.
2. Prior to the meeting, place the proper colored eggs in the books or materials that the group is required to find.
3. Divide the teens into 4 groups and tell them that they are to find their eggs in the order given on their clue sheet (stagger the clues to avoid everyone being in the same place at the same time).
4. Set a time for the youth to be back in the room (usually 20 minutes). While youth are gone, set out their snack.
5. If you like, you can award a small prize to each member of the teams that locate all of their eggs.
6. As youth eat their snack, discuss any problems they may have encountered and explain the purpose and meaning of the call numbers.

### Variation #2

Instead of giving each team a list of clues, the clues are written on the eggs or other shapes. Assign each team the color of eggs for which they are to search. Each team will search for only the questions on their color of eggs.

#### *Example: "Pink" Team*

1. Give them their first egg with the clue: 912 Atl *Atlas of the World* (Oxford)
2. Place the egg with the clue: YAPB Tol *The Hobbit* in the above atlas.
3. In the book *The Hobbit*, place the clue: YA Coo *Flight 116 Is Down*. Follow suit for the remaining clues
4. Place the last egg in the cassette *The Kingdom by the Sea* with instructions to return to the meeting room.

Pink Team Instructions:

You are hereby ordered to retrieve 6 pink eggs and return them to the meeting room in 20 minutes. Your first clue is written on your pink egg. Each of the remaining clues are written on pink eggs and placed with the book that is the correct answer for the previous clue.

1. 912 Atl *Atlas of the World* (Oxford)
2. YAPB Tol *The Hobbit*
3. YA Coe *Flight 116 Is Down*
4. Ref 629.4 *Magill's Survey of Science* v4
5. Ref 031 Col *Collier's Encyclopedia* v16
6. YACAS Wes *The Kingdom by the Sea*

## The Little Old Librarian Madlib Descriptors

1. Animal
2. Verb
3. Adverb
4. Adjective
5. Verb
6. Verb
7. Adverb
8. A name
9. Same name
10. A number
11. Adjective
12. Adjective
13. Same name as 8 and 9
14. Piece of furniture
15. Noun
16. Food
17. Adjective
18. Adjective
19. Adjective
20. Adverb
21. Verb
22. Animal
23. Same name as in 8, 9 and 13
24. Same animal as 1
25. Famous person

### Madlib Descriptor Definitions

**NOUN:** A person, place or thing (boy, shoe, fork, car)

**ADJECTIVE:** A word that describes a person, place or thing (big, red, dark)

**VERB:** An action word (walk, sing, eat, read)

**ADVERB:** A word that describes a verb (slowly, bravely, loudly, badly)

**PRONOUN:** A word that takes the place of a noun (he, they, you, it, her)

## THE LITTLE OLD LIBRARIAN

Do you know why people believe that librarians are little old 1 with glasses and their hair in a bun? Let me tell you how it came about.

I 2 3 into my public library one day and walked to the 4 section to pick up something to 5. A small ugly book caught my eye. When I 6 the book, a huge rat 7 appeared in a puff of smoke. He was as big as a man!. I threw the book down and turned to run but he blocked my way. He told me that his name was 8, the rat and that he was the victim of an evil spell put on him by a librarian. 9 begged me to read him chapter 10 of the book. He said that if I would, the spell would be broken and he would turn back into a 11 genie and grant me 2 1/2 wishes.

I decided that even though his breath smelled like 12 cheese and his nose hairs needed clipping, I would do it. How much choice did I really have? I was trapped. 13 sat down in a 14, put his huge head in his 15 and listened. The story was about three little pigs that built a house made of beautiful golden hair with a 16 roof. Weird!

As soon as I had uttered the last word of the chapter, he turned into a 17 genie with huge 18 earrings and tons of 19 jewelry. He was so happy that he laughed and 20 21 and ran. The librarian said that we were disturbing the other 22 and made us leave, but not before I had 23 grant me my first wish: That librarians would always have the reputation of being little old 24 with glasses and buns.

By 25

## Sample Booktalks

### *The Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

Brian Robeson was on his way to Canada to visit his father for the first time since his parent's divorce when the pilot, and only other occupant of the plane, had a heart attack and died. Brian found himself sitting in a plane seven thousand feet above the northern wilderness. Somehow he safely landed the plane on a lake and without any knowledge of doing so, pulled himself free. He awoke to find himself at the edge of the lake, alone, with only the clothes on his back and the parting gift his mother had given him... *The Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen

### *Dreadful Sorry* by Kathryn Reiss

Imagine that for as long as you can remember you have had the same horrible dream and that lately the dream had been coming more often. Hoping that a change of scenery might help, you go to spend the summer with your father and new stepmother in the old Victorian mansion they have recently bought. But, when you arrive, you realize that their house is the house in your dreams. That's exactly what happened to Molly Teague in *Dreadful Sorry* by Kathryn Reiss.

### *The Foxman* by Gary Paulsen

When my cousin and I were out trapping in the wilderness we become lost in a snowstorm and discover an old cabin. When the door was opened to our knock, we saw the most hideously deformed man that I had ever seen. He fed us and gave us shelter for the night. My cousin couldn't wait to get out of there, but something about the man attracted me and I found myself going back to see him...over and over again.

### *The Face on the Milk Carton* by Caroline Cooney

In the school lunch room one day, 15 year-old Janie sees the face of a three year-old missing child on her milk carton.....and realizes it is her.

### *Schernoff Discoveries* by Gary Paulsen

Harold Schernoff is an intelligent scientific whiz. He and his only friend are nerds who try out Harold's theories – theories on meeting girls, dating and skiing. But Harold's theories rarely work out as planned, like his date when he accidentally stuck his tongue in Arlene's nostril.

### *Yesterday's Child* by Sonia Levitin

After Laura's mom dies, Laura goes through her things and discovers a letter, written the day she died, to a childhood friend. Because she doesn't feel like she really knew her mother, Laura looks into her past....and discovers that her mother was part of a horrible crime.

## Book Talk Resources

Bodart, Joni. *Booktalk!: Booktalking and School Visiting for Young Adult Audiences*. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1980.

Bodart, Joni. *Booktalk! 2: Booktalking for All Ages and Audiences*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1985.

Bodart, Joni. *Booktalk! 3: More Booktalks for All Ages and Audiences*. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1988.

Bodart, Joni. *Booktalk! 4: Selections from the Booktalker for All Ages and Audiences*. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1992.

Rochman, Hazel. *Tales of Love and Terror: Booktalking the Classics Old and New*. Chicago, American Library Association, 1987.

Sherman, Gale W. *Rip-Roaring Reads for Reluctant Teen Readers*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1993.

Sherman, Gale W. *More Rip-Roaring Reads for Reluctant Teen Readers*. Englewood, CO: Libraries Unlimited, 1999.



## **Coroner's Inquest at the Library**

In recent years we have heard much about murder mystery nights. I have never been to one and have read only one script, which left me totally confused. In the pages which follow I have tried to give you total instructions for conducting a "Coroner's Inquest at the Library."

The actual inquest will take 30-45 minutes. We allowed 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend, but you could do one for middle school students and another for high school students.

Limiting the number of attendees to 25 is a good idea. Attendees who don't play a character will be the jury members, so everyone participates.

We conducted the program with our young adult group that meets monthly. I provided them with instructions and character profiles at the meeting held the month before the mystery program. The program could easily be adapted to a group of young adults who do not know each other, but who registered in advance.

**You can do this! Everything you need is in this packet except the props, and they are simple and adaptable.**

## **MURDER AT THE LIBRARY CORONER'S INQUEST**

**By Sharon Lamberson**

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## LEADER'S INSTRUCTIONS – 1

### In advance:

- ✓ Prepare an envelope for each cast member. Print the character's name on the envelope and place the appropriate pages in each envelope:

Character	Pages for Envelope
Host Opie Winifred	3, 4, 5
Coroner U. B. Dead	3, 4, 6
Judge I. B. Cool	3, 4, 7
Prosecutor U. B. Bad	3, 4, 8, 14, 15, 16, 17
Deputy Tell D. Truth	3, 4, 9
Children's Librarian Gilda B. Good	3, 4, 10, 14
Janitor Sam D. Sweeper	3, 4, 11, 15
Reference Librarian Hattie R. History	3, 4, 12, 16
Do Bee Handsome	3, 4, 13, 17
Jury Members	3, 4, 18
Mystery Guest, I. M. Homeless (Print only a question mark on this envelope)	3, 4, 19

- ✓ If possible distribute envelopes to cast members before the night of the program. If not give the youth a few minutes to go over their parts and instruct them to follow their Court Order (p. 4). Remaining youth will be members of the jury or I. M. Homeless.

- ✓ The table below indicates the number of copies you will need to make of each page.

Page Number	Number of Copies Needed
3	11
4	11
5 -13	1
14 - 17	2
18	15
19	1

- ✓ Prepare baggies with the clues for evidence.
- ✓ Write or type the love letter from Mr. Handsome to Ms. Wright on stationery. The script for the letter is on the Cast, Evidence and Prop Sheet (p. 3).
- ✓ Collect props.

## LEADER'S INSTRUCTIONS – 2

### **The day of the program:**

- ✓ Set up room with props and evidence bags. Have extra copies of participants' envelopes.
- ✓ Set up an area with the mystery refreshments. You can serve pizza and soda, cookies and cocoa or whatever you like - just don't tell the teens what the refreshments will be!
- ✓ Set up a display of popular young adult mystery books.

### **As youth arrive:**

- ✓ Pass out the jury member instructions to those who didn't already receive a script. Allow a few minutes for them to read them. When you are ready, instruct Opie Winifred to begin.

### **Following the program:**

- ✓ Use this ice breaker to allow the group to get to know one another. Have everyone sit on the floor in a circle and tell the person on his or her right:
  - their nickname
  - their favorite food
  - their favorite mystery book
- ✓ Have everyone introduce the person on their left to the group.
- ✓ While the youth have their refreshments, guide their conversation by asking:
  1. Who was your favorite character? Why?
  2. Who did you think pushed Ms. Wright? Why?
  3. What was your least favorite part of the inquest? Why?
  4. If you could change the mystery, how would you do it? How would that make the mystery better?
- ✓ Allow youth to use the remaining time to browse the mystery book display.

## CAST, EVIDENCE AND PROP SHEET –3

**Cast:** Opie Winifred, Host  
U. B. Dead, Coroner  
I. B. Cool, Judge  
U. B. Bad, Prosecutor  
Tell D. Truth, Deputy  
Gilda B. Good, Children's Librarian (1<sup>st</sup> witness)  
Sam D. Sweeper, Janitor (2<sup>nd</sup> witness)  
Hattie R. History, Reference Librarian (3<sup>rd</sup> witness)  
Do Bee Handsome, Ms. Wright's boyfriend (4<sup>th</sup> witness)  
I. M. Homeless, Mystery Cast Member  
Jury members

**Evidence:** baggy containing dirty dust-cloth  
baggy containing cat hair  
baggy containing "Arthur" bookmark  
baggy containing love letter to Ms. Wright from Mr. Handsome

**Props:** gavel  
black robe (optional)  
handcuffs (optional)  
desk for judge  
witness chair  
chairs for jury  
chairs for observers and witnesses  
desk for prosecutor  
podium for Opie Winifred (optional)

### Love Letter Script

My Darling Always,

I love you so much and want to be with you Always, Always. How can we get rid of Hattie? I am so tired of having her around Always, Always. Oh my darling, we must think of something!

Love Always,  
Do Bee

## **COURT ORDER – 4**

Introduction (Opie Winifred)

Deputy calls court to order

Coroner's report

Judge instructs deputy to call first witness, Gilda B. Good

Deputy swears in witness ("Do you swear...")

Prosecutor U. B. Bad questions Gilda B. Good

Judge instructs deputy to call second witness, Sam D. Sweeper

Deputy swears in witness

Prosecutor questions Sam D. Sweeper

Judge instructs deputy to call third witness, Hattie R. History

Deputy swears in witness

Prosecutor questions Hattie R. History

Judge instructs jury

Jury leaves room and deliberates

Jury returns, Deputy calls court to order

Jury foreman announces verdict

?

Court dismissed

## Opie Winifred Script – 5

Ms. Always B. Wright, Head Librarian at the Boondock Public Library for over 25 years, has died. Ms. Wright was never wrong. She knew all of the facts all of the time.

Library patrons avoided her like the plague because she liked to choose their books for them. She always knew just exactly what they should be reading.

Her staff felt like she must have had eyes in the back of her head. Not even the tiniest mistake they made escaped her notice.

Since Ms. Wright fell shortly before opening, when no patrons were in the building, it is thought that perhaps she was pushed by one of her employees.

Let's go now to the Inquest and hear what coroner U.B. Dead has to say.

## **Coroner U. B. Dead Script – 6**

After the “hear ye, hear ye,” by the Deputy Tell D. Truth and the seating of the judge, state the following:

**On Tuesday, April 3, 1999, Ms. Always B. Wright, head librarian at the Boondock Library, fell or was pushed down the back stairs at the library. We are here today to decide whether or not her death was accidental. If evidence is found of foul play, the suspect will be bound over to the circuit court of I.M. Crooked.**

Look at judge and say:

**Shall we begin, your Honor?**



**Judge I. B. Cool**  
**Instructions – 7**

If possible watch Judge Judy, Judge Wapner and/or People's Court to get ideas about how to act.

Be prepared to follow the proceedings with either a bored or obnoxious demeanor.

After the questioning has ended, read the jury their instructions as follows:

**You have heard the witnesses and seen the evidence, now you must bring a verdict. You have five minutes and two choices:**

- 1. Rule that Ms. Wright's death was accidental.**
- 2. Rule that Ms. Wright's death was the result of foul play and decide which witness will be charged with the murder.**

**You are dismissed for deliberation.**

**Prosecutor U. B. Bad**  
**Instructions – 8**

Be prepared to ask each witness their questions in a disrespectful manner and to display the evidence bags at the appropriate time. Feel free to make up additional questions within the context of the facts you are given about the character.

**Deputy Tell D. Truth**  
**Instructions – 9**

As Judge I. B. Cool approaches the bench, call out:

**Hear Ye Hear Ye, the court of the Honorable Judge I.B. Cool is called to order.  
Please rise.**

As each witness is brought to the stand for questioning, give them this oath:

**Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so  
help you God?**

If the jury decides that Ms. Wright's death was accidental say:  
**Court dismissed.**

If the jury decides there was foul play, arrest the person that will be bound over to  
stand trial for murder. (Use handcuffs if available)

## **Gilda B. Good, Children's Librarian**

### **Profile & Instructions – 10**

Gilda, aged 40, has worked for 15 years at the Boondock Library. She loves children, though she has none of her own, and delights in doing storyhour and acquiring the very best materials for the children's department. She was not, however, appreciated by Ms. Wright and has not received one raise in her 15 years at the library. Gilda lives in a small cottage, left to her by her parents, and is just barely able to support herself and her seven cats.

Though Ms. Wright and Gilda had had a mild disagreement concerning Gilda's purchase of "Arthur" bookmarks, everyone knows that she is not capable of murder ... or is she?

ALIBI: Gilda was shelving books in the children's room when Ms. Wright fell down the stairs. She saw nothing.

### **Instructions**

1. Study the profile sheet on your character.
2. Be very shy and polite but speak clearly.
3. Read the questions that you will be asked at the inquest and prepare your answers. You may ad lib as long as you stay within the facts given to you.
4. The prosecutor is free to ask surprise questions ... be prepared!
5. Don't memorize what you will say; be natural.
6. If you are bound over to stand trial for the murder of Ms. Wright, cry and claim you are innocent.

## **Sam D. Sweeper, Janitor Profile & Instructions – 11**

Sam is 30 years old and has been at the Boondock library for three and a half years and he has not missed one day's work. He is kind and courteous to patrons and a hard worker who gets along well with his fellow employees. Sam keeps pretty much to himself and it was rumored that when he came to Boondock he had just been released from prison. He was pale as a ghost and would never talk about his past or personal life.

The evening before Ms. Wright's fall, Sam had been in her office with the door closed.

ALIBI: Sam was in the ladies bathroom scraping gum from the mirror when Ms. Wright fell. He saw nothing.

### **Instructions**

1. Study the profile sheet on your character.
2. Be an average pleasant person, not shy, not obnoxious.
3. Read the questions that you will be asked at the inquest and prepare your answers. (Suggestions: You could have been on a secret mission in outer space for a year or you could have been sick with cancer and couldn't or didn't want to talk about it.) You may ad lib as long as you stay within the facts given to you.
4. The prosecutor is free to ask surprise questions ... be prepared!
5. If you are bound over to stand trial for the murder of Ms. Wright, repeatedly say "I'm innocent".

## **Hattie R. History, Reference Librarian Profile & Instructions – 12**

Ms. Hattie R. History, age 55, is known for her talent of digging up wonderful historical information for the students who patronize the Boondock Library. She has been at the library for 14 years.

Hattie and Ms. Wright were best friends and have been so since they roomed together in library school. They liked the same things, read the same books and loved going to Beach Boy concerts.

Last summer, Mr. Do Bee Handsome moved to town. He shared Hattie's and Ms. Wright's taste in literature and also loved the Beach Boys. They had become a threesome and were frequently seen around town together. Last week it was rumored that Mr. Handsome and Ms. Wright were seen coming out of the theatre holding hands, without Hattie.

ALIBI: Hattie was in the reference room trying to find information on a gruesome murder in Boondock in 1935. She saw nothing.

### **Instructions**

1. Study the fact sheet on your character.
2. Act disgusted that you are even being questioned. Be a little snooty.
3. Read the questions that you will be asked at the inquest and prepare your answers. You may ad lib as long as you stay within the facts given to you.
4. The prosecutor is free to ask surprise questions ... be prepared!
5. If you are bound over to stand trial for the murder of Ms. Wright, scream over and over that you are innocent.

## **Do Bee Handsome, Ms. Wright's Boyfriend Profile & Instructions – 13**

Do Bee Handsome, age 57, of 204 Reading Road is a book salesman for the Readem and Weep Book Company and has been so for some 37 years. Seven months ago his territory was changed and he moved to Boondock. He met Ms. Wright and Ms. History while selling books to them. They became a regular threesome and did many things together. About four months ago, Ms. History was ill and not able to attend the Beach Boy concert with Do Bee and Ms. Wright. The two enjoyed being together without Ms. History and began seeing each other. About 2 months ago Do Bee sent the love note to Ms. Wright but he certainly didn't mean that they wanted to kill her or anything like that. Do Bee never meant to hurt Ms. History in any way. He just wanted to be alone with Ms. Wright.

ALIBI: Do Bee was at the Hicksville Public Library when Ms. Wright fell.

### **Instructions:**

1. Study the profile sheet on your character.
2. Be very shy and polite but speak loudly.
3. Read the questions that you will be asked at the inquest and prepare your answers. You may ad lib as long as you stay within the facts given to you.
4. The prosecutor is free to ask surprise questions ... be prepared!
5. Don't memorize what you will say, be natural.
6. Be very sad and sorry that you said "how can we get rid of Hattie?" You are a kind man but you do have to admit that Ms. History could have misinterpreted the love letter.

## **Prosecutors Questions For Gilda B. Good – 14**

1. What is your full name and age?
2. What is your position at the library?
3. How long have you worked at the library?
4. What was your disagreement with Ms. Wright about?
5. I understand that Ms. Wright had white cat hair on her black sweater the morning of her death. Do you have any idea how it got there?
6. I also understand that an Arthur bookmark was found in Ms. Wright's possession at the time of her death. Did you give it to her?
7. Did you see Ms. Wright fall down the steps?



## Prosecutor's Questions For Sam D. Sweeper – 15

1. What is your full name and age?
2. What is your position at the library?
3. How long have you worked at the Boondock Library?
4. Do you like your job?
5. I understand that you were in Ms. Wright's office with the door closed the night before her death. What were you talking about?
6. How do you explain this dustcloth that was found under her body?
7. It has come to my attention that there is some speculation as to where you were before you came to Boondock. There are even those who believe that you were in prison. Tell me, is that true?
8. Did you see Ms. Wright fall down the steps?

## Prosecutor's Questions For Hattie R. History – 16

1. What is your full name and age?
2. What is your job at the library?
3. How long have you worked at the Boondock Library?
4. I understand that you and Ms. Wright were good friends and had been so since college. Is that true?
5. I understand that you and Ms. Wright have recently become good friends with a Mr. Handsome. What kind of things did you do as a threesome?
6. Were you aware that Ms. Wright and Mr. Handsome were seen leaving the movie theatre last Saturday night?
7. I understand that this note, addressed to Ms. Wright was found in your desk. Read it. How did it happen to be in your desk?
8. Did you see Ms. Wright fall down the steps?

## Prosecutor's Questions for Do Bee Handsome -- 17

1. What is your full name, age and address?
2. How are you employed?
3. How long have you lived in Boondock?
4. Where were you when Ms. Wright fell down the steps?
5. I understand that you, Ms. Wright and Ms. History used to be a threesome. Is this true?
6. How long had you and Ms. Wright been seeing each other without Ms. History?
7. Did you in fact write the letter that was read by Ms. History?
8. What exactly did you mean when you said "get rid of Hattie?"
9. Couldn't Ms. History have thought that you and Ms. Wright planned to kill her?

## **Jury Member Instructions – 18**

You are a member of the jury and are asked to decide if Gilda, Sam, Hattie or Do Bee should stand trial for the murder of Always B. Wright. Listen carefully to the evidence.

When the jury is dismissed to deliberate, elect a foreman, discuss your opinions and then vote on who you think should stand trial. It is possible to rule Ms. Wright's death an accident if you don't think there is enough evidence to convict anyone.

The whole jury does not have to agree. You just need a simple majority.

## I. M. Homeless

### Instructions – 19

You are a secret witness to Ms. Wright's fall. **NO ONE KNOWS** that you saw what happened. You are a poorly dressed, scruffy-looking jury member.

After the jury has reached their decision, jump from your seat and run up to tell the judge what really happened.

You hid under the stairs in the back hall when the library closed the night before Ms. Wright's fall. You were cold and hungry and had no place to go. You ate all of the snacks in the break room and then fell asleep under the stairs. You heard a noise and jumped up. Ms. Wright saw you, screamed, lost her balance and fell down the steps. You were able to get out the back door before anyone saw you. You were afraid that you would be accused of tripping her but you are very sorry. You just couldn't stand to see an innocent person be blamed or to have everyone always wonder really happened.

**Sample Press Release – 20**  
(On your library stationery)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The \_\_\_\_\_Public Library will host a "Coroner's Inquest at the Library" [day and date], at [time], for teens in grades [list grades].

Ms. Always B. Wright, Head Librarian at the Boondock Public Library for 25 years, has died. Since Ms. Wright fell down the steps shortly before opening, when no patrons were in the building, it is thought that perhaps she was pushed by one of her employees.

Participants attending the Inquest will decide if Ms. Wright fell or was pushed based on evidence presented by Gilda B. Good, Sam D. Sweeper, Hattie R. History, and Do Bee Handsome.

All youth attending will participate by being a cast member in the mystery. Opie Winifred will be the host for the evening.

Mystery refreshments will follow the program.

Youth must pre-register by calling or coming by the library. Registration will begin at [time], [day and date], and is limited to 25 teens.

Parents must meet youth at the parking lot door at [time].

**CONTACT:**

name  
title  
library name  
phone #  
email address

## The Murder Mystery Game

Setting: A local library

### Cast of Characters:

Gertrude Bradshaw, Book dealer and collector

Ophelia Campbell, Librarian

Mary Dewey, Library Director

Robert Guildenstern, College professor

Helen Horation, Actress

Claudius Jones, Adventurer and art collector

### Prologue:

The library received as a gift a rare edition of Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, valued at over \$1,000,000. Prior to putting the book on public display, the director arranged a special exhibit opening one week ago tonight, and invited a select group of interested people. Everything was going well when suddenly the lights went out. Confusion followed. When the lights came back on, the exhibit room was empty, and *Hamlet* was gone!

In an attempt to recover the missing book, Ms. Dewey has asked summer reading club detectives to witness a reenactment of the crime. Hopefully, the true culprit can be determined and the library will get its gift back.

### Act I:

The suspects will assemble on stage, gathered around a substitute *Hamlet*. Ms. Dewey will introduce the characters and describe what happened the night of the crime. The lights will go out. When the lights come back on the characters and the book will be gone.

### Act II:

Guest detectives will receive a list of possible questions to ask the suspects.

### Act III:

Suspects will take positions around the room. Each will have a poster with a brief description of his or her character to help give the detectives ideas. The detectives will question the suspects individually. Some ad-libbing will be required.

### Act IV:

The detectives will reassemble as a group. They will vote on whom they think committed the crime. One of the five suspects, ... or someone else?

### Act V:

The criminal will be revealed.

## Character Studies

### *Gertrude Bradshaw, Book dealer and collector*

- The library director met Bradshaw at a conference she attended in Washington, D.C. They both went to a meeting focusing on rare books.
- With her business, Bradshaw's particular areas of interest are Elizabethan materials and English history. She knows a great deal about books from Shakespeare's time and often locates rare editions for collectors.
- The director mentioned the *Hamlet* gift at the conference and Ms. Bradshaw expressed great interest in it. She was therefore invited to the special opening.
- Bradshaw appears successful, professional, and knowledgeable, but no one at the library or at the opening knows her personally.

### *Ophelia Campbell, Librarian*

- Miss Campbell works at this branch of the library.
- She is smart, efficient, and very glamorous.
- Her colleagues wonder how she can afford her expensive clothes and jewelry since she never mentions any extra source of income.
- She has worked at the library several years, and is well-liked by both staff and patrons. High school students always seek her help with papers because she was an English major in college.

### *Helen Horatio, Actress*

- Horatio lives in this town but makes frequent trips to New York City for auditions and acting roles. (It would be easy for her to get rid of stolen goods on a typical trip.)
- She comes to the library often to research plays and roles. The staff knows she has a special interest in Shakespeare and *Hamlet* because of her frequent questions on those topics; therefore she was invited to the exhibit opening.
- Since she does visit the library often, she would have heard early on about the book's value. She also knows the layout of the building.



### ***Claudius Jones, Adventurer and Art Collector***

- Mr. Jones is an “Indiana Jones” type who travels the world in search of rare artifacts. He sells his treasures to museums and private collectors.
- He uses the library a lot to research his various destinations. He often tells the staff exciting stories about his trips.
- He has been coming in for years and is well-liked. However, everyone also knows how ambitious he is about his work. Any object of value is a temptation for him.
- He knows many art and rare book collectors, some of whom do not care whether their purchases are obtained by legal or illegal methods.

### ***Robert Guildenstern, College Professor***

- Dr. Guildenstern teaches English at a local university.
- His most popular class is a graduate seminar on Shakespeare.
- He wrote his theses on *Hamlet*.
- Since he usually uses the university library, the staff here does not know him. Ms. Dewey invited him to the display opening at Mr. Claudius Jones’ request.

### ***Mary Dewey, Library Director***

- Ms. Dewey has been the library director for only a year. Previously she lived in the East.
- She is known for aggressive public relations and fund raising. She spends a lot of time promoting the library in the community and has been encouraging monetary donations in order to improve library services.
- Recent budget cuts in state and local funding have caused her great concern, but she continues publicly to present an up-beat demeanor.

## Detectives' Worksheet

Questions for Helen Horatio:

*NOTE: The real worksheets will not have any answers, but included here are some to help the actors.*

1. When did you last go to New York City?

*"Saturday, returned Sunday. I went to try out for a show."*

2. Did you have any other appointments while you were there?

*"Yes, with a real estate agent. I am thinking of renting an apartment in New York City since I am there so often."*

3. What is your all-time favorite acting role?

*"Ophelia in Hamlet. I have traveled all over the country to play that part."*

4. Where did you go when the lights went out?

*"I am used to walking into the dark at the theater so I left the room and went into the lobby looking for help."*

5. Who do you think stole the book?

## Detectives' Worksheet

Questions for Gertrude Bradshaw:

1. Have you ever been to [your town] before?
2. Why were you suddenly so anxious to come here?

*"I was very excited to have the opportunity to see such a unique volume of Hamlet."*

3. Did you offer to buy the book from the library?

*"Yes, but the director explained that the terms of the gift prohibit the library from selling the book for at least 50 years."*

4. Were you angry when your offer was refused?

*"At first I was, but I understood the problem."*

5. Where did you go when the lights went out?

*"I tried the first door I found and ended up in a closet."*

6. Who do you think stole the book?

## Detectives' Worksheet

Questions for Ophelia Campbell:

1. Is *Hamlet* one of your favorite books?

*"Yes."*

2. Have you heard of a librarian stealing a rare book to sell it?

*"Unfortunately, yes, I have read about a few incidents. I think it is a terrible betrayal of the public trust and I feel very sad that any librarian would consider committing such a crime."*

3. Do you have any other job besides your work here?

*"I have been trying to keep this a secret, but with all the rumors going around I guess this is the right time to tell. For the past few years I have been writing mystery novels. They have been very successful and I've been making quite a bit of money from them. I did not want anyone to know, but recently I feel people have been getting suspicious."*

4. Where did you go when the lights went out?

*"Up to the circulation desk to get a flashlight."*

5. Who do you think stole the book?

## Detectives' Worksheet

Questions for Claudius Jones:

1. Two weeks ago you were in Peru and Tibet; last week after *Hamlet* was stolen you went to Guam. Why?

*"Those were routing trips. I was looking for gold statues from the pre-Columbian days in Peru, early illuminated manuscripts in Tibet, and stone carvings in Guam."*

2. Why did you ask Ms. Dewey to invite Prof. Guildenstern to the opening?

*"Bob and I are old friends. I knew of his work in Shakespearean studies and thought he would like to see this Hamlet."*

3. Where did you go when the lights went out?

*"I decided to go home, I figured the show was over."*

4. Who do you think stole the book?

## Detectives' Worksheet

Questions for Robert Guildenstern:

1. How do you know Mr. Jones?

*"I met him several years ago when he did a series of lectures at the university."*

2. Why are you so interested in *Hamlet*?

*"It started with my name. I always thought it was really weird. Then in high school I found out Guildenstern was a character in Hamlet, so that made me feel kind of famous."*

3. Did you know anyone else at the opening?

*"Mr. Jones introduced me to Ms. Dewey and Miss Campbell. I had seen Helen Horatio in a few theater productions but never met her."*

4. Where did you go when the lights went out?

*"I followed Mr. Jones into the parking lot."*

5. Who do you think stole the book?

No sample questions will be provided concerning Ms. Dewey since she is not a suspect per se. During the program, she is to mill about, helping describe the crime scene, talking to the suspects, listening to the questioning and appealing for help in recovering the book.

After her guilt is revealed, she will apologize and explain why she did it. According to the terms of the gift, the book could not be sold for at least 50 years. Anxious to make up for the funds lost through budget cuts, Dewey decided to steal the book, keep it hidden, and collect the insurance money for the library. *Hamlet* would not go to a private collector, yet the library would have ready cash.

When Bradshaw offered to buy the book, Dewey realized that a market did exist. She decided to stage the exhibit opening in hopes the police would determine that the book had been stolen for profit and throw suspicion away from the library.

She says, "I know what I did was wrong, but I honestly did it for the good of the library."

(Thank you to Lucinda Whitehurst, St. Christopher's School, Richmond, VA)

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